

ACORN

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario



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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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Cover:
Cruickston Park
Manor House
Photo by Douglas Brown

President's Report

As I prepared to play a very minor part in the first conference organised by Community Heritage Ontario, a conference with the theme "Working Together", I reflected on how often the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario works with other groups. We are members of the Ontario Heritage Alliance, provincial organisations with a common interest in Ontario's heritage but each with a special interest in one aspect of that heritage; our conferences in 1992, 1994 and 1995 were, or will be, co-sponsored by another organization; in 1993 the ACO and the Ontario Historical Society co-sponsored two workshops on Ontario's Industrial Heritage; and, at the Community Heritage Ontario Conference, the event that spurred my reflections, representatives of heritage groups, including the ACO, formed the panel for the session on the new heritage legislation. We can all imagine cases where working together could be to the disadvantage of one of the players; we should always aim to develop a true partnership to benefit both groups.

It is important to work together but it is also important to reach out into the community. When I mentioned that I had recently spoken to a service club and led three walking tours someone commented, "Those are not activities for the ACO president - anyone can give a talk or lead a walk." I don't agree - not only do these basic activities reach out to the unconverted but they give publicity to the ACO.

Even more basic is the need to keep in touch with our members, to provide activities where they can learn. By the time this issue of Acorn reaches you the Strategic Planning Forum on 27th November will be over. But if you have suggestions on how the ACO should plan for the next five years, send a note to me via ACO Head Office, Suite 204, 10 Adelaide Street, East, Toronto, M5C 1J3. It should reach me before 1st January, 1994.

Julia Beck

Editorial

This issue was to highlight successes in the branches. To a degree the branch reports do that. Unfortunately not all

branches contributed articles. The following is a brief overview of what those branches that do have a branch report in this issue have had success at.

Port Hope has a continuing success story with the annual Fall House Tour. This is their chief fund raising event. The money is used for many worthwhile preservation projects in the town. Past issues of ACORN have described the Capitol Theatre project which is on going and promises to be successful.

The Toronto Region Branch is continuing to do architectural studies such as the Bellevue Avenue Study reviewed in this issue.

Heritage Cambridge and the ACO are continuing to monitor the Cruickston Park Farm Estate study and its eventual outcome.

North Waterloo will be reporting, in detail, on the restoration of the James Livingston House (Castle Kilbride) in Baden, by the Township of Wilmot and the addition that will serve as the new township offices.

At the Council level we can all take pride in the ACO's successful conferences that precede the Annual Meetings. Our involvement in the New Heritage Legislation has been extensive and we look forward to an improved act being passed in the Spring.

The Advisory Board, under the Chairmanship of William Greer, continues to prepare reports on buildings when requested to.

The success of the branches and the Ontario Council is due to the dedication of the many volunteers that run the executive at the local and the provincial level. Members of the branches have spent countless hours of work on local projects and activities and that is something we can all feel proud of.

May you have a wonderful holiday season and we wish you success in 1994.

Marg Rowell

Letter to the Editor

I am responding to the President's request to hear from the membership their thoughts on where the ACO is, where it should be going and how it should get there. However, as is obvious, I am not responding directly to the President but to her through ACORN - and for a good reason.

While most of the articles on archi-

itecture and the various activities of the ACO and its branches are interesting, it has always seemed to me that the ACORN should also be the medium, for an exchange of views between its individual members. We might also get some civilized if lively arguments - the sign of a healthy organization. So my first point is - let's see more correspondence from individuals in the ACORN; let's not rely on branch and ACO officers and representatives to fill the columns.

Second, I belong to a number of organizations and the ACO is the only one where the members do not get to see reports of the committees; such things as the financial statements, the progress report of the Program and Development committee, the Membership and Publicity committee, etc. - unless they happen to attend the AGM. But even there I understand there are some years when proper reports are not available. A separate mailing would be nice but to save costs, why not incorporate these reports in the ACORN so that we get them before the AGM - you might even entice more people to attend the AGM and the recently introduced Symposia that go with them. And incidentally, who are the members of the committees? If a member wants to "input" how does she/he get in touch?

In a similar vein, it might not be a bad idea to publish the names of the Branch executive members (and committee chairs if they are not on the executive) once a year, say in the first issue of ACORN each year, just after most have newly elected officers.

Although the By-Laws were recently revised, there are still some items I would like to see in there. For example, I know of no other organization that does not require the circulation of the report of their nominating committee before the AGM with the request that if there are further nominations from the membership, then follow a certain procedure - usually a small number of people have to deposit a nomination paper with the office a few days before the AGM so that all nominees can be properly presented at the meeting.

Apparently we lose up to 25% of our membership each year, elsewhere I read that the membership numbers have remained relatively constant. That means we must gain up to 25% new members each year. In some respects that is very good. But this is typical of similar or-

ganizations, especially heritage organizations; is it the same for each branch? If not, what are some branches doing right that others are not? Why not tabulate the membership numbers each year for branches as well as the ACO; in fact it should not be too difficult to show these numbers for the past few years. There is so much information about our organization that I find myself wondering about, questions that should be simple to answer. Some of them may not seem of much importance, but communication is the key to a dynamic and healthy organization and I think the communications between members in the various branches needs considerable improvement. A start has been made; let's accelerate.

A.E. Beck

Council News

STRATEGIC PLANNING FORUM

This meeting took place on November 27 and we hope to have the draft of an excellent member-driven 5-year Plan to present to Council next February. If you weren't able to attend the forum, it's not too late to send your recommendations to the committee via your Branch executive or the ACO office. (See inside front cover for addresses.)

HIDDEN TREASURES II & BEYOND

The second bus tour for 1993 took place September 24th to 26th along Highway 2 from Cornwall to Brockville. It included a stop at that Victorian extravaganza Fulford Place in Brockville, which elicited strong reactions from the participants. More fascinating touring is planned for 1994 - perhaps reruns of the highly successful Buffalo trip scripted by Bill Moffet in June, and the Detroit Auto Barons Tour in the fall.

CASH CALENDAR

Council has decided to postpone this fund-raising project until 1994. The red tape involved in obtaining licenses was even worse than anticipated, and left little chance of producing the calendar in time for the fall '93 house tours. However, the delay will allow Rod Angevaere to track down more sponsors and

advertisers and yield an even better return on our investment.

AGM/CONFERENCE '94

A working committee of Ben Rosebrugh and Tish Oslund from Heritage Cambridge, Michael O'Byrne of the Brant County Branch, and Executive Committee rep Margaret Goodbody are meeting to make plans for the AGM being held in Cambridge in April 1994. The third Annual Conference, which precedes the AGM, has the dual themes of "When A House is Not a Home" and "A Gift to Last", dealing with the issues of historic residences converted to museums and of property donated to municipalities and other authorities. The Ontario Historical Society will be taking part in the first section and the Ontario Heritage Foundation in the second.

AGM/CONFERENCE '95

Looking even further ahead, this event is being planned for Ottawa in conjunction with a Vernacular II conference co-sponsored with the American Vernacular Foundation. The new Rideau Valley Branch should be up and running by then. Since Ottawa has notable Gothic Revival buildings, the emphasis of the ACO's conference presentations will be on understanding the Gothic and its influence on Ontario architecture.

ERIC ARTHUR BOOK

Bill Moffet presented his proposed format at the November Council meeting. While the focus of the book will be the collection of photographs of historic buildings taken for Eric Arthur in the 1920s, and now held in the Ontario Archives, Bill suggests including photographs and drawings by Mr. Arthur's students as well as some of his writings, such as his contributions to the now defunct RAIC journal.

Industrial Heritage Workshops, Co-sponsored by ACO and OHS

Since 1990, when the ACO organized the series of workshops Designing for Conservation, led by Herb Stovel and

Albini Souci, we have been planning to hold at least one workshop in Northern Ontario. When we chose the theme "Ontario's Industrial Heritage" as appropriate not only to the north but to many parts of Ontario, we found that the Ontario Historical Society was planning a series of workshops on the same theme. We agreed that the ACO and the OHS would be co-sponsors of two workshops in the series, that these two workshops would emphasize the problems associated with converting an industrial building to a new use, and in each case, Spenser Higgins, architect and for many years on the executive of the ACO, would be the keynote speaker.

The first workshop jointly sponsored by the ACO and the OHS was held in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday 24th April. This fell on the weekend of our conference/AGM in Port Hope making it difficult for any member of the ACO, other than Spencer, to attend. I was able to attend the second workshop on the 16th October in Cornwall in the Old Cotton Mill, part of a vast and inspiring complex of woollen and cotton mills built between 1872 and 1925.

Chris Andreae, Historical Research Ltd. and past-president of the Society of Industrial Archaeology, opened the workshop with a discussion on identifying and interpreting our industrial heritage, a segment of our past which is often seen as "dirty" and unimportant. Spencer's two fascinating presentations sometimes referred specifically to the renovation of an industrial building but at other times the connection was more tenuous: most of his examples came from the conversion of the Bank of Montreal on Front Street, Toronto, to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

It is unfortunate that other members of the ACO did not travel to Cornwall to take part in this workshop and see the inspiring complex of industrial buildings. Other workshops in the series - Copper Cliff, Welland, East York, and Windsor, did not emphasize the importance of maintaining industrial buildings.

Julia Beck

Cruickston Park Farm

The summer issue of ACORN reported on the AGM and on the dinner held on Saturday evening when Bill Moffet and David Emberly were the after dinner speakers. As the report in ACORN noted, they spoke about Cruickston Park Farm, and estate of nearly 1000 acres on the outskirts of Cambridge but owned by the University of Guelph. Several people have asked for more information about this property.

The threat to Cruickston Park Farm was brought to the attention of the ACO by Lynda Schneider, president of the Cambridge Branch, at a Presidents' meeting in November 1992. At that time the University was carrying out a study on the future of the property and asking for suggestions from the public. The ACO prepared two reports. The first, submitted to meet a short deadline, was necessarily brief. It was based on printed material and verbal comments from members who were familiar with the estate. The second report was based on a visit to the main house, many of the outbuildings and adjacent grounds by a group of ACO members.

The first report noted that "within Cruickston Park Farm there are areas and buildings of unusual importance. But the value of the estate is more than the total value of its parts. As a whole, it is undoubtedly a property of provincial significance." It went on to list features of the estate - a main house (see Acorn summer 1993), outbuildings, natural areas, landscaped gardens and agricultural land that should be considered when assessing the significance of the property and making recommendations for its future use. The importance of the wetlands at the junction of the Grand River and the Speed River, designate by the Ministry of Natural Resources as an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, was stressed.

The report recommended that the estate be used for several complementary purposes and made some general suggestions. It emphasised that no part of the estate should be sold or altered until plans were drawn up for its future use.

The second report was submitted after eight members of the ACO (two architects, the president, the secretary and members from the Cambridge and To-

ronto branches) had visited the estate. By that time, we had become aware that the land includes a number of very important ecosystems. We were distressed by the deterioration of the main house and some of the outbuildings and offered to give advice on conserving these buildings.

When the Advisory Committee set up by the University of Guelph to consider the future of Cruickston Park Farm released its report, it stated that it had considered three alternatives for the estate: conservation with limited sustainable use, conservation and moderate use, and intensive development. It recommended the second option which would preserve the main house and the environmentally sensitive areas but permit the development of much of the property. One member of the committee resigned and submitted a minority report. He could not support the proposed development of the estate, claiming that it violates the terms of the will of Matthew Wilks Keefe, who bequeathed Cruickston Park Farm to the University, and evades the question of the University's moral responsibility in accepting the gift.

The conference in Cambridge, in April 1993, "When a House is not a Home" will look at other properties bequeathed to foundations, municipalities and institutions and try to find the perfect formula for ensuring that a property bequeathed is a property preserved.

Julia Beck

Cruickston Park Farm: Protecting the Bats and the Belfrys

Cruickston Park Farm is a very large estate of unsurpassed natural beauty. Situated just north of the City of Cambridge, it was settled in 1856 by a Mr. Ashton, later to be purchased by the Wilks family who became famous horse breeders. In 1947, the estate came into the hands of the Keefer branch of the family who deeded it to the University of Guelph in 1973. Today the farm lands and various residences on the estate are rented out by the University, while the natural environments are used as a field

study areas by the students. There have been ongoing discussions on its long-term use, and particularly of the large manor house constructed in 1858.

The special value of Cruickston Park Farm, I would suggest, is not necessarily its historic buildings, but its diversity both natural and man-made. This includes:

WETLANDS

An extensive wetland bordering the Grand River, providing an abundant habitat for animals ranging from small frogs and other amphibians to waterfowl such as heron, duck, marsh hawks, wrens, osprey, owls, as well as woodpeckers, fly catchers, swallows and orioles, and mammals such as squirrels, fox, martens, racoons, and deer.

UPLAND FORESTS

A series of large upland forests in a climatic succession of maple, beech, cherry and pine. Within the forests are a number of micro-ecologies such as bat corridors and marshland snags.



Part of the picturesque farm building complex on the estate.
Nicholas Hill

AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Open farmland on more level productive soils separated by hedgerows that not only provide aesthetic appeal but act as important wildlife corridors.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

An extensive network of stone walls and tree-lined drives and lanes planted in the late 1800s in the European country estate grand tradition.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

A number of significant historic buildings including the manor house of 1858, a log house, a picturesque farm building complex and various farm labourers' cottages.

FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE

Blair Road, which divides the uplands and lowlands of the estate, was originally an Indian trail, and oral tradition indicates that there is a burial ground on the river flats.

It is hoped that future uses and management of Cruickston Park Farm by the University of Guelph will recognize and protect these natural and man-made attributes. The plan should be approached like an ecology - an interdependent supportive framework for all the elements of the site, both large and small, to co-exist - from bat corridors in the depths of the forest to buildings and gardens for human enjoyment and use.

Nicholas Hill

The Fothergill House

The Town of Whitby's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (L.A.C.A.C.) is currently endeavouring to save a fine architectural gem from the wrecker's ball. The Fothergill House, located at 1011 Dundas Street West in Whitby, Ontario, was built in 1883 by John Joshua Fothergill. Mr. Fothergill was a farmer and son of Charles Fothergill, a noted political figure and a naturalist in early Upper Canada. The home is a fine example of rural Queen Anne architecture, beautifully detailed, well built and carefully executed. Asymmetrical in plan and elevation, the house is built entirely of white stretcher bond brick. Prominent features of the house are a modest turret on the east front corner and a wide projecting bay on the west side at the front of the house. A projecting rear wing has been demolished.

The Fothergill House was moved to its present location in 1987 to make way for a new housing subdivision. The rear wing of the home was demolished prior



Fothergill Residence, Whitby
Photo by Sutherland, Whitby

to the move. The home has been boarded up since its move although significant components of the interior of the home remain intact. High, complex baseboards, wide door surrounds and elegant cornice mouldings at the ceiling level all survive. The banisters on the stairs have been removed along with the fireplace mantles. Demolition of the back wing took with it the landing and access to the basement.

The house sits on a 9.19 M² wide lot with a 3.60 M² wide lot immediately adjacent to it. The land is zoned residential but the building could be zoned to allow for professional offices. The two lots and the home are currently for sale as one package. The owner is anxious to sell the land and has applied to the Town for a demolition permit. A demolition permit has been issued but the owner has agreed to delay demolition until either an unconditional offer of sale is presented on the property or May 1, 1994, whichever comes first.

The Town of Whitby's L.A.C.A.C. is endeavouring to find an interested party to either preserve the house on site or move it off site for preservation. It would be a great loss to see such a fine home destroyed. Anyone wishing further information should contact the Town of Whitby L.A.C.A.C. at (905) 668-5803).

Catherine Beckett and Patricia Wilcox,
Town of Whitby L.A.C.A.C.

Branch Reports

Quinte Region

Our publishing project, Quinte Walking Tours, is well under way and, with any luck, should be ready for the publisher by sometime in November. We are hoping that enough interest will be shown in this book to justify additional volumes on the various tours that our branch has conducted over the years.

The following is a summary of the tours we conducted over the spring and summer of this year:

PETHERICK'S CORNERS APRIL 18, 1993

Katherine Mills led us on our first outdoor tour of the spring. Starting at Petherick's Corners on Northumberland Road 38 (northwest of Hoards Station), she drew our attention to the Zion Methodist Church, erected in 1878 on property given by William Petherick, who had settled there in 1843. Close to the church is an old cheese factory built in 1875, a Loyal Orange Lodge built in 1912 and a log house built around 1820. As we drove south from here, there were many stone houses built in the 1850s by Scottish stone masons to be seen and admired. These houses were usually set in the rolling landscape so the would be

protected from winter winds as well as afford their owners a view of the beautiful countryside.

The Buchanan home "Stone Haven", built in 1855, situated between Concessions 6 & 7 used to be the general store and Post Office for Burnbrae village. Footings are still evident across the road for a school, pub and cheese factory. We stopped at Masson's School, built of local stone in 1856, and now a private retreat. The large windows on the south wall are similar to those found in other old schools in the area.

At Wellman's Corners, refreshments were provided by the Women's Institute in the hall of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. On the way home, one concession south is situated the restored King's Mill. Built in the 1850s of local stone in a timber framework, it sits beside a beautiful millpond.

BELLEVILLE WEST HILL MAY 23, 1993

David Bentley led a small but active group on a tour of the West Hill, an area that often gets overlooked in favour of the better known East Hill. We gathered at the footbridge near Catherine Street and were told of how this tour was developed by Heritage Belleville. This was followed by a long and informative walk through a number of the older streets of the West Hill. On a sunny May afternoon, architectural and historical details came to light. Stone, brick and frame houses dot the area. Some have been restored, others show their years. We visited two churches in the area: Holloway Street United; and Christ Church Anglican, and were fortunate to have the Minister in charge for each church present as well as some of the congregation who could give us details on the history, the stained glass and the architecture. Several old schools were also pointed out, including one of the first ones in Belleville. The tour concluded at Christ Church where refreshments were served to a rather tired group.

ODESSA/WILTON JUNE 20, 1993

The inclement weather of Sunday, June 20th didn't seem to deter too many of our usual band of followers. Bob Hintz, our leader, followed the ACO motto that the tours are done, rain or

shine, even though many of the group were huddled under umbrellas at the start. We walked Main Street (Hwy. #2) in Odessa and then drove north on the Wilton Road 4 1/2 km to the hamlet of Wilton.

Odessa came into being as a mill town around 1850 and has many buildings worthy of a visit, a fact missed by those roaring by on the nearby 401. The house at 86 Main Street is the Regency cottage beside Mill Creek and dates from 1855. There is the historic Babcock Mill on Bridge Street, dated 1856 and Valley View/Raddon House, a large stone home built in 1840 at 114 Factory Street.

Wilton, situated just north of Hwy. 401, is made up of many stone buildings from the period around 1850, strung out along one road. A mill, a school (now a pottery), a small stone church (now a storage shed) and a few beautifully kept stone homes make up Wilton. The Pultz/Burt house c. 1840 at the intersection east of County Road 6 is an example of a large generously proportioned stone home with French windows on either side of the front door. We also enjoyed visiting the large barn built in 1918 that was part of this property.

Refreshments were provided by the Women's Institute in the old Methodist Episcopal Church built in 1840.

DESERONTO JULY 18, 1993

This tour was led by our past branch President, Bazil Kuglin. The group met at the Mohawk Airport which was built in World War I and which was also used during World War II. Bazil spoke of the history of the airport and covered such details as the barracks and buildings long since gone. The group then travelled to the village of Deseronto which, despite its appearance of having seen better days, contains some excellent examples of Terra Cotta decoration, as evidenced in particular by the Opera House. This and other Terra Cotta examples were supplied by local craftsmen. Also worthy of note is Christ Church, built in 1843, the old Post Office and the Town Hall. A point also worth mentioning to those wishing to visit Deseronto is that there are a number of very interesting architectural examples on some of the side streets and a tour through the town is well advised.

BELLEVILLE CEMETERY AUGUST 15, 1993

On a hot, hot afternoon (one of the hottest of the summer) in August, over 90 people attended our cemetery tour. This tour was a joint effort of the Quinte Branch, Campbell Monument Company (Gary Foster) and the Hastings County Historical Society (Leona Hendry). The gentle breezes from the Bay of Quinte offered some relief to the late summer heat and provided a soothing background of gentle sounds. Also in attendance to assist us were Gord Adams, superintendent of the cemetery, Gerry Boyce, Beth Green and Lois Foster from the Historical Society and Pleasance Crawford, who is the acknowledged expert on and who spoke briefly about H.A. Engelhart, the designer of not only this cemetery but of Mount Pleasant cemetery in Toronto.

The tour covered 15 monuments in the older section of the cemetery, including monuments to Susanna Moodie, Samuel Green, Sir Gilbert Parker, Henry Corby and Billa Flint to mention a few.

Among the highlights were the comments of Gary Foster on the architectural styles of the monuments and their similarities to building styles of the same era and some of the techniques used by the craftsman of the day to produce the monuments. Other highlights were the brief histories of the people whose monuments we visited which were prepared by Leona Hendry, Beth Green, Lois Foster, Dan Atkinson and David Bentley. We were also treated to the dedication of the newly restored William Hutton monument. This stone has been cleaned and repaired mainly through the generosity of the Campbell Monument Company, with assistance from the Hastings County Historical Society.

In spite of the heat, most people remained to the end of the tour and the cold refreshments on the steps of the mausoleum were certainly welcome, as was the opportunity to visit inside this building, which was built sometime in the early part of this century. We sincerely wish to thank all those people who contributed to the success of this tour and in particular, Gary Foster, Leona Hendry and Gord Adams.

Dan Atkinson

Brant County

BURFORD BICENTENNIAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

A record crowd and a special Bicentennial theme made for a very special "Citizen of the Year" banquet on Thursday, October 28.

About 160 people gathered at the Burford Agricultural Pavilion to join in honouring Marion Sheridan as this year's Citizen of the Year.

Mrs. Sheridan, of RR1 Burford, was cited as one of the principal organizers of the Burford Bicentennial celebrations, as well as for her work with the Women's Institute, Historical Society, Architectural Conservancy, church and many other community activities.

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY AWARDS

Bill Darfler of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (Brant County Branch) presented certificates to several people who own architecturally significant homes in Burford Township. In presenting the awards he said that Burford should be proud of its many fine buildings and congratulated the winners for their special efforts in conserving their properties.

Receiving the architectural conservancy awards were: Edna Polley, Crossroads Congregational Church, Fairfield United Church, Scotland United Church, Holy Trinity Church, John-Poor, Roy Miles, John Shepherd, Mr. Schieman, Herb Riddle, Henry Virtue and Tibor Takas.



Schieman House, south of Burford on Maple Avenue.
Marion Sheridan

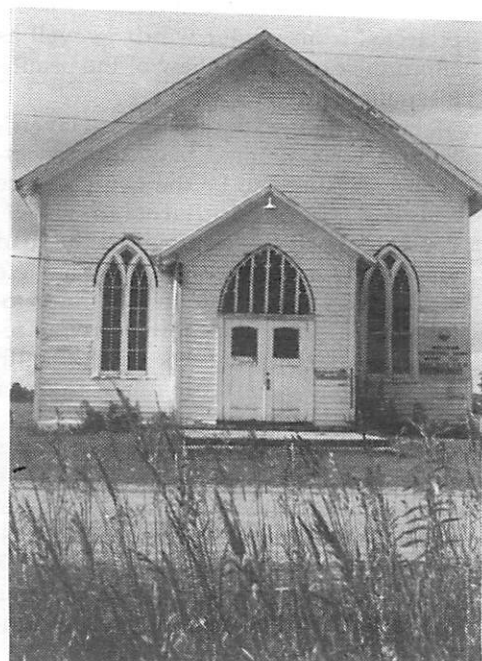
SCHIEMAN HOUSE

The Schieman house is a glorified Ontario farmhouse with three gables, instead of the common one-gable front, and showing five bays at the main level. A one-storey projection to the right (not shown) adds a sixth bay. It may well be a later addition. It is of interest that the bays do not carry through to the upper level as they would have in a Georgian façade. Three kinds of arches are shown: the round arch at the upper level, the flat arch at the lower level windows, and the elliptical arch at the main entrance. The masonry of these arches is only one header deep at the upper level, but three at the lower level. There is a beautiful fan transom at the main entrance which also has the traditional side lights.

The entire front is in Flemish bond. The Victorian gingerbread is, if anything, understated, with strong dentils being the dominant feature. Three courses of brick show a blackened effect. Does this mark where a porch has been removed? Or did an earlier owner try for a painted-on polychrome effect? (Brant County has numerous examples of painted-on polychroming. We pray constantly that enthusiastic owners will not try too hard to undo this evidence of nineteenth century flamboyant whimsy at the many sites around our county.)

CROSSROADS CHURCH

Crossroads Congregational Church at Fairfield Plain is a nice example of an early, rural church. The community is really a crossroads in the southern part of Burford Township. The strong pointed windows and the main entry provide



Crossroads Congregational Church.
Marion Sheridan

the only relief for the little wooden box. The tracery over the main doorway shows the light verticality of English Gothic Architecture.

Mike Keefe

Heritage Oxford

The future use of the 1895 Woodstock Market building is still in limbo. For the third time tenders have been called for and four have been received. One is from a local businessman who is offering to open stores and a large restaurant to tenants in a completely remodelled interior. Another proposal, complete with architectural plans, from the Woodstock Little Theatre has much merit.

The Woodstock Senior Citizen's Club would like to remodel the interior of the building as an active community centre for their extensive programmes.

City Council will make their decision later this month. The Market building has recently been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The work on the Woodstock Museum (Old Town Hall 1852) renovations are now underway and a grand reopening of the building will be held in the Spring of 1994. In the meantime the Museum is continuing to operate at a large temporary location with no restriction in their program

Ed Bennett

London Region

ELDON HOUSE RESTORATION

Eldon House (1834) is the oldest residence in London, Ontario. Built for John Harris and his family, the house remained in the Harris family until 1960 when the house and its contents were given to the City of London.

During 1990-91, a Restoration Study, partially funded by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, was conducted by four consultants - Charles Hazell, Michael McClelland, Andre Scheinman, and Jill Taylor.

In 1991, the Ontario Heritage Foundation approved a restoration grant for \$150,000 - half the amount (in 1991 dollars) required to carry out the restoration; the City of London agreed to match the provincial funding. In 1992, Edwin Rouse and Michael McClelland were hired as the restoration team.

The restoration commenced this past summer (1993). The contractor was Ontario Restoration Limited. The first phase included the restoration of the three chimneys, the cedar roof in the main block, the gutters and downspouts in the main block, the two skylights in the roof and the two dormers - the extensive front dormer and the smaller rear dormer.

The second and third (final) phases are planned for 1994 and 1995. Major work during these phases will include restoration of the wood cladding, windows, and doors (1994) and restoration of the veranda (1995).

*Lynne DiStefano
Chief Curator, Historical Museums
London Regional Art and Historical Museums*



Eldon House under restoration.
Richard Green

Huron County

BEATING THE ODDS: THE BAYFIELD TOWN HALL

The Old Bayfield Town Hall is a building with the kind of charm one can sometimes find in the lined faces of those who have lived a long and happy life. Although a slight sag in its roof line and its prim Gothic Revival design attest to its old age, it now faces Bayfield's Clangregor Square with dignity and grace. Its clean white boards glistening among the red and orange maples evoke a bygone era. One still senses there the presence of something strong and innocent as if the pioneering spirit which cleared the land and built the village was somehow crystallized in its tall slender windows, its cedar roof and church-like tower containing the old school bell. Until very recently the prospect of this building being restored and rejuvenated would have seemed all but impossible.

The Bayfield Town Hall was built in 1882 at a cost of \$660 to accommodate a newly formed council. This action seemed particularly pressing because up until that time the council had been forced to meet in local drinking establishments. As a contemporary newspaper pointedly noted, "The men that compose this compact body (i.e. the council) are not given to drink by any means but rather the other way". One is left speculating as to why the writer made such an issue of the matter. But whatever the circumstances of its origin, the building itself was evidently a good one of its kind. The same newspaper noted that "It supplied a long-felt want in Bayfield. The contractor was Ishmael Fillion of Bayfield and a better mechanic

(i.e. builder) never lifted a hammer". One senses in these words a young community's longing for a civic presence and the making of a building which, however unassuming it may appear to our modern eyes, somehow fulfilled that longing.

From its birth the Town Hall went through an awkward adolescence and then on to an intense and colourful middle age. Shortly after its construction it was found to have been built on a road right-of-way, an embarrassing circumstance which nonetheless had a happy result. The building was eventually uprooted and relocated to its present site in 1920. Once placed in the south-west corner of Clangregor Square, the village's central green space, it found a congenial setting and its proper home. If you chat with the older locals about the Town Hall, they very soon come out with fond reminiscences of everything from dances, quilt shows, concerts and plays to New Year's parties and goose dinners. Apparently the building had even served as the courtroom and local jail - offenders were locked up in a makeshift basement cell. A perusal of the wooden benches in the upper gallery reveals dozens of initials, graffiti and cryptic messages, all playfully chiselled into the old pine planks. Like characters in a story book they evoke the pranks, the conceits and the loves of generations of Bayfielders.

Old age brought with it the problems common to that station. In 1967 a new community centre was built for the village of Bayfield. With this and other changes the Town Hall was eventually eclipsed as the community meeting place and it entered into a period of declining use and physical deterioration. In 1979 The Ever Young Club, with the aid of government grants undertook some badly needed renovations to the building and added vinyl siding in an attempt to keep it viable. This effort, though well intended, was short lived. The Town Hall was permanently shut to the public in 1984 as a result of a Fire Marshal's report which condemned it as unsafe. Until recently the building was simply used as a storage shed. Its once cheerful exterior was obscured and tatty, its patched-up roof leaked, its plaster walls were crumbling and its demise seemed all but certain.

This scenario has played itself out in many Ontario towns with the end result often favouring the wrecker's ball. What



Bayfield Town Hall.
Adolfo Spaleta

made the difference in Bayfield was the presence of a small but dedicated group of people who were determined to save the building no matter what. In 1983 a heritage minded village council passed a bylaw establishing the Heritage Conservation District which included within its boundary the old Town Hall. This gave official status to the group's belief that the Town Hall was both valuable and worth saving. When the building was finally closed in 1984 with its future in doubt, this group swung into action and was influential in commissioning three consecutive studies in as many years to explore options for saving the building. On the whole the results of these studies were not very encouraging. Among the conclusions reached; Bayfield did not require the additional meeting space offered by the Old Town Hall, there was no obvious community use for the building, and most disappointing of all, a high percentage of residents apparently favoured its demolition.

To continue with a cause in such unfavourable conditions may seem stubborn, pigheaded or simply foolish but the group persevered nonetheless. By 1989 they had organized a steering committee which hired the firm of Christopher Borgal Architects to conduct a comprehensive study examining the building's future options. The study included extensive interviews with local politicians, service groups, businesses and individuals; a detailed analysis of the building's condition; and cost projections for a feasible restoration and re-development. To pay for the study the

committee obtained 50% funding from the provincial government while two anonymous gentlemen from Bayfield paid for the remainder.

The study concluded that there was indeed a place for a rejuvenated Town Hall in Bayfield's future. It noted that certain types of activities and meetings required the kind of space that is not always readily available in the village. It therefore went on to recommend re-developing the building to provide a flexible, well equipped and high quality meeting space which took advantage of the Town Hall's unique heritage. It could cater to business, corporations and other institutions as well as provide an auditorium for plays, musicals and college extension courses. An administrative structure for managing the building was outlined and a schedule of phased construction was proposed along with detailed cost projections. What remained was to raise the capital to carry out the work.

The findings of the report provided the committee with the ammunition they needed to launch a vigorous fundraising campaign. They methodically canvassed different levels of government, corporations, charitable foundations, local businesses, area residents and even passing tourists. They organized strawberry socials, gourmet dinners, heritage house tours and sold souvenirs along the main street. In short they did everything they could to promote the project and raise funds. By the fall of 1992 there were sufficient monies to begin work.

By the spring of 1993 the exterior had been fully restored and the resulting transformation raised a few eyebrows. Villagers who were previously uninterested or hostile to the project began to express interest and even enthusiasm. With the coming of summer began renovations to the interior and this work is still ongoing. While there is much yet to be done, it is clear the old Town Hall has come back to life. In the first week of October the Huron Society of Artists held a three day exhibition in the not yet finished building. Although the paint was barely dry and some fixtures not yet in place the show drew in more than five hundred visitors. This happy event marks the first time the Town Hall has opened to the public since its closure almost a decade ago. So successful was the show that the artists have already asked about booking the hall for next year.

While there are many in Bayfield who love the building because it gives them a link with their roots and with their memories, the Town Hall can now stand on its own merit; even the newcomer can say as he casts and admiring glance "this is a fine building". As I slowly walked by it a few days back I could not help but feel that within those inquisitive windows and beneath that maternal roof there is a real and living presence - how else can one explain the way it has so cleverly avoided a seemingly certain death. This is a building that wanted to live and did, and there is much that it can yet offer to those who gather within its walls.

Adolfo Spaleta

Book Review

BELLEVUE AVENUE

By Edna Hudson; Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy, 1993. 40 pages, soft-cover.

Bellevue Avenue is subtitled "An Architectural and Social Study" and it is exactly that; a well researched and detailed study of a small piece of Toronto's architectural history. The location under study consists of two sides of the three block length of Bellevue Avenue, and it is the small size of the study area that makes such a detailed examination feasible.

Bellevue Avenue is a street that was formed from a part of the Denison property called Bellevue; the street was first built upon in the fifteen years following 1870. The original concept called for a street of middle class single family homes; to that end the lot frontages were fifty feet, and several such houses were actually built. However, after the first few years, more and more of the buildings were used for multi-family occupancy; it is the study of these buildings that make this work a social as well as an architectural study.

The buildings on some of the multi-family lots may have been designed for this use, but a number of them just grew. A typical scene sees the owner building a small house at the back of the property; then a small narrow house to one side of the frontage, then another beside it, then enlarging them both, then converting the two front houses to ac-

commodate three families. The owner lived at the rear and rented the rest out. One owner packed five houses plus a dairy housing six cows and a horse into one fifty foot lot.

Since the organization of the book includes both a "walk" down the street and a separate section for the architectural history, plus line drawings for a number of the buildings and photos of a few, a bit of page flipping is required to follow the story of a particular building. However the book, as organized, is a good read and provides an understanding of the street; patience will also provide a good understanding of any given building. The only real puzzle is the reproduction of the same 1854 map, with the same caption, on both page 2 and page 29.

The good news is two-fold. First, the street has survived, even with more recent changes; the author's description of the present street is an upbeat note. Given some of the 19th century construction methods noted, it is a wonder that urban renewal had not finished it. The best part is that this type of study would be well worth doing on other streets in other municipalities; and just to see how this study was done makes the book worth having.

Bob Rowell

Heightening the Mood of the Landscape

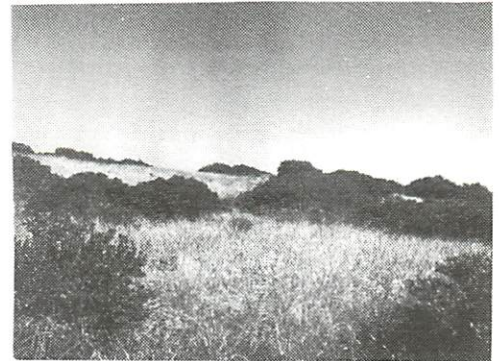
THE LANDSCAPES OF A.E. BYE

A.E. Bye is recognized as one of the leading landscape architects in North America. He practices mainly in New England, and particularly on large private estates.

A.E. Bye is inspired by nature's forms and processes. He values the diversity and vitality of a landscape and derives beauty through natural processes such as the cycle of nature and the seasons. Whereas the European Romantic Landscape of the 18th century was created as a picture and essentially unchanging, Bye seeks growth and change. His were ecological landscapes long before ecology became a mainstream endeavour. To witness a Bye landscape is to witness a landscape of timeless appeal - a subtle and gentle transformation of nature into art. Some essential characteristics of A.E. Bye landscapes include:

- securing the salient qualities of a site as thematic points for the beginning and the unity of the design;

- allowing existing conditions to suggest the final composition;
- removing the extraneous rather than the addition of new;
- magnifying the character of the site;
- choosing a few tough indigenous plants over a variety of exotics;
- expressing the local ecology.



Shapiro Residence, Long Beach Island, New Jersey, by A.E. Bye, 1955
John Godfrey Stoddart

This is the first of a series of short articles on landscapes and landscape architects by Nicholas Hill, a past-president of the ACO who is presently reading a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Guelph.

FOR SALE

IN

PICTURESQUE ELORA



A one-and-a-half-storey red brick Gothic house, featuring window labels, corbelling and eave returns. 6/6 windows have been converted to 1/1 at an early date. The house is built close to the sidewalks on a generous corner lot, and has driveways from both streets.

Research by the present owner indicates that the main part of the house was built in 1857, with a (possibly later) tail connecting to a rear wing built as a two-storey infirmary after the property was bought by a doctor in 1875.

The front door, with its sidelights and transom, leads to a center hall. There are double pocket doors in arched doorways on each side of the hall; the one on the left leading to a large living room with a gas fireplace; the door on the right to a dining room featuring a bay window with french doors. A bedroom has been created behind the dining room. Behind the center hall, the kitchen includes a sitting alcove to the right, which contains a wood stove. To the left of the kitchen is another den and another bedroom.

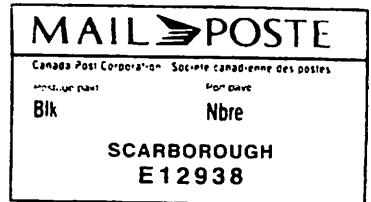
The second storey has been converted to a separate apartment, with another apartment occupying the former infirmary.

Interested parties should contact Bob McDonald at P.E. Olsen Realty, (519) 741-0474.

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